

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01  
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07  
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06  
OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 PA-01  
PRS-01 IO-13 NRC-05 /119 W  
-----040544 020913Z /10

R 020810Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9819

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E.O.11652: N/A  
TAGS: PARM, TECH, ENRG, JA  
SUBJECT: NUCLEAR REPROCESSING - THE QUIET PHASE

1. WITH ONE EXCEPTION, THE JAPANESE PRESS HAS LAPSED INTO A QUIET PHASE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES BETWEEN ROUNDS OF THE U.S.-JAPAN REPROCESSING DEBATE. SINCE THE DEPARTURE OF THE U.S. TECHNICAL STUDY TEAM ON JULY 12, THE ONLY SUBSTANTIVE DOMESTIC MATTER TO OCCUPY THE ATTENTION OF THE NEWSPAPERS BRIEFLY WAS THE AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON MINISTER UNO OF THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGENCY, AND THE REPORTING WAS LIMITED AND FACTUAL. THERE WAS MINIMAL COVERAGE OF THE GROUP-OF-SEVEN MEETING IN PARIS LAST WEEK, LIMITED TO REMARKS MADE BY MOFA OFFICIAL OKAWA TO JAPANESE REPORTERS THERE; EVEN THESE WERE NOT PUBLISHED IN MAJOR DAILIES.

2. THE EXCEPTION NOTED ABOVE HAS BEEN THE YOMIURI SHIMBUN. ITS WASHINGTON REPORTER FILED A STORY TEN DAYS AGO ATTRIBUTED TO A STATE DEPARTMENT SOURCE WHICH "REVEALED" THAT THE USG HAD MADE A POLICY DETERMINATION ON THE FUTURE OF TOKAI MURA WHICH WOULD PERMIT THE REPROCESSING PLANT TO OPERATE, PROVIDED THAT A MIXED URANIUM-PLUTONIUM PRODUCT WAS FORMED. WHEN THE EMBASSY WAS QUESTIONED ABOUT THE VALIDITY OF THE  
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REPORT, WE REPLIED THAT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE ONLY THE PRESIDENT COULD MAKE THE POLICY DETERMINATION AND WE DID NOT THINK THAT AN OPTIONS PAPER HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO HIM YET (I.E., TEN DAYS AGO).

3. YOMIURI OF AUGUST 1, IN BOTH ENGLISH AND JAPANESE VERSIONS, NOW REPORTS ON THE GOJ POSITION FOR THE NEXT

ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS. IT SAYS THAT THE GOJ HAD DECIDED TO REJECT THE ANTICIPATED USG PROPOSAL THAT JAPAN PRODUCE A PLUTONIUM-URANIUM MIXTURE AT TOKAI AND THAT THE GOJ WILL COUNTERPROPOSE THAT THE PLANT BE ALLOWED TO OPERATE FOR A FIXED PERIOD--SAID TO BE TWO YEARS -- WHILE JAPAN STUDIES SAFEGUARDS AGAINST THE MILITARY USE OF PLUTONIUM AND WITH THE RESULTS OF THE STUDY BEING REPORTED TO INFCEP.

4. CHECK WITH RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS IN BOTH STA AND MOFA INDICATES THAT ARTICLE IS PURE SPECULATION AND THAT GOJ HAS NOT YET ESTABLISHED ITS NEGOTIATING POSITION. STA OFFICIAL WAS EVEN MORE ADAMANT: STA ITSELF HAD NOT YET DECIDED ON ITS POSITION.

5. YOMIURI OF SAME DAY ALSO HAS INTERESTING EDITORIAL ENTITLED "NUCLEAR FUEL TOKYO ROUND." ITS MAJOR POINTS ARE:

--BOTH NATIONS DIFFER IN BASIC POSITIONS AND LACK WELL FORMULATED POLICIES ATTUNED TO THE REAL POLITICAL AND TECHNICAL SITUATION.

--U.S. HAS BEEN INCONSISTENT IN ITS NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY.

--JAPAN HAS NO THOROUGHLY PLANNED PROGRAM FOR USE OF PLUTONIUM ON EITHER AN ECONOMIC OR TECHNOLOGICAL BASIS.

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--JAPANESE INSISTENCE THAT NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING IS INDISPENSABLE IS INCONSISTENT WITH FACT THAT TOKAI MURA PLANT IS NOT REALLY A COMMERCIAL FACILITY.

--JAPANESE NEGOTIATORS DO NOT SEEM TO FULLY APPRECIATE DANGERS OF PROLIFERATION AND HENCE DO NOT UNDERSTAND U.S. CONCERNS ABOUT TOKAI MURA BEING BROADER THAN PLANT ITSELF.

--JAPAN SHOULD DRAW UP A LONG-RANGE NUCLEAR POWER POLICY WHICH IS BASED ON ENERGY NEEDS AND ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATION TO SUPPORT NON-PROLIFERATION; IT SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN MAKING ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION FREE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

MANSFIELD

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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